
COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Alternative Inspection Program Guidelines

Approved by the
Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board
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Department of Conservation & Recreation

CONSERVING VIRGINIA'S NATURAL AND RECREATIONAL RESOURCES

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EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL ALTERNATIVE INSPECTION PROGRAM GUIDELINES

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ALTERNATIVE INSPECTION PROGRAM GUIDELINES

INTRODUCTION

These Alternative Inspection Program Guidelines are provided for program authorities considering the development and implementation of an alternative inspection program in accordance with the criteria set forth in §VAC50-30-60B.b. of the *Virginia Erosion & Sediment Control Regulations*. The following guidelines include an interpretation of the applicable regulation (Section I.), a procedure for the preparation and submission of a proposed alternative inspection program (Section II.), and two sample alternative inspection program documents (Section III). Program authorities should note that other proposed alternative inspection programs may be deemed consistent with the regulations, however the samples provided in Section III generally satisfy the minimum standards of effectiveness in accordance with the regulations.

I. Interpretation of Virginia Erosion & Sediment Control Regulations §VAC50-30-60B.b

The alternative inspection program shall be:

- (1) Approved by the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board (VASWCB) prior to implementation;
- (2) Established in writing;
- (3) Based on a system of priorities that, at a minimum, address:
 - the amount of disturbed acreage,
 - the proximity to adjacent properties and/or waters of the Commonwealth,
 - existing and/or altered topography,
 - existing and/or altered soil characteristics,
 - the stage of construction, and
 - the need for site specific controls;
- (4) Implemented to ensure the highest prioritized projects are inspected in accordance with Section 30-60 B.a. of the regulations;
- (5) Documented by inspection records.

II. Procedure for Preparing and Submitting a Proposed Alternative Inspection Program

- A. Initial alternative inspection program proposals should be submitted to the assigned regional Erosion and Sediment Control staff for a 30 day review and comment period. The review and comment period will consist of the following:
 - 1. A current and historical review of the local program including, but not limited to, the following:
 - a. the past (2) evaluations of the inspection component of a local program;
 - b. citizen complaint totals within the local region;
 - c. department complaint totals within the local region;
 - d. evaluation of local program staff and their ability to effectively implement the proposed alternative inspection program;
 - 2. A review of the initial proposal; and
 - 3. The development of comments.
- B. A final proposal should then be developed and submitted to the regional Erosion and Sediment Control staff. Upon receipt of the final proposal, regional staff will forward the proposal along with staff comments to the VASWCB 30 days prior to the next scheduled board meeting. Assigned regional staff will be available to provide technical assistance throughout the development of the proposed alternative inspection program.
- C. The program authority may formally present the proposal in person at the scheduled VASWCB meeting upon confirmation of being placed on the agenda and adherence to the above procedure defined in part B. It is not required that a representative from the program authority be present at the meeting in order to have a proposal reviewed.
- D. Assigned regional staff will present staff comments and be available for questions at the VASWCB meeting for the review of an alternative inspection program proposal.

III. Sample Alternative Inspection Programs -

Sample 1 - Narrative Classification System (Pages 3 and 4)

Sample 2 - Tabular Rating System (Page 5)

SAMPLE 1

Narrative Classification System

PURPOSE:

The alternative inspection program described herein for locality is designed to provide for oversight of urban land-disturbing activities by effectively utilizing local staff to meet specific urbanization trends while addressing specific environmental conditions within the locality.

AUTHORIZATION:

§10.1-566 of Title 10.1 Chapter 5, Article 4 of the Code of Virginia and §4VAC50-30-60 of the Erosion and Sediment Control Regulations.

POLICY:

To most effectively utilize local staff and protect the resources of the locality and the Commonwealth, the locality will implement an alternative inspection program based on a system of priorities. The system of priorities will be based upon the amount of disturbed project area, site conditions, stages of construction, and site conditions noted on previous inspections.

IMPLEMENTATION:

1. The erosion and offsite environmental impact potential of regulated projects shall be determined by an evaluation of the topography, soil characteristics, acreage disturbed, proximity to water resources, and proximity to adjacent property lines.
2. After plan review and a site visit, the plan reviewer and the program administrator will assign a classification number to the project.
3. Classification numbers will be assigned to projects which address site specific erosion potential and offsite environmental impact. These classification numbers will be used to determine the frequency of inspections. The classification numbers will range from one to three, one (1) requiring a less frequent inspection schedule and three (3) requiring a more frequent inspection schedule.
4. The classification of a project may be adjusted to a higher or lower classification by the program administrator based upon complaints, violations, inspections, and stages of construction.
5. The classification number shall be included on the approved plan, written on the file folder, written on the building permit application, and made a part of the project database.

BASIS FOR CLASSIFICATION:

The following classifications shall be assigned to projects based on a preliminary site visit and plan review:

- | | |
|---------|---|
| CLASS 1 | Total acres disturbed under two acres; greater than 150 foot buffer between disturbed area and any property lines, water resources, or public streets; slopes are 0-7 percent and greater than or equal to 300 feet; weighted soil K-factor is less than .23. |
| CLASS 2 | Total acres disturbed under two acres; disturbed area is 50 feet to 150 feet from any property lines, water resources, or public streets; slopes are 7-15 percent and greater than or equal to 150 feet; weighted soil K-factor is between .23 and .36. |
| CLASS 3 | Total acres disturbed over two acres; disturbed area is less than 50 feet from any property lines, water resources, or public streets; slopes are greater than 15 percent and greater than or equal to 75 feet; weighted soil K-factor is greater than .36. |

FREQUENCY OF INSPECTIONS:

1. All permitted land-disturbing activities will be inspected at a minimum frequency according to the following schedule:

CLASS 1	At the beginning and completion of the project and every eight weeks.
CLASS 2	At the beginning and completion of the project and at least every five weeks.
CLASS 3	At the beginning and completion of the project and at least every two weeks.
2. All inspections will be documented on an inspection log maintained as a part of each project file. Project owners will receive copies of inspection reports with noted violations.
3. Inspection return frequency is not limited to the above schedule and will increase in frequency due to runoff producing storm events or documented violations.

SAMPLE 2

Tabular Rating System

<u>Distance to Watercourse:</u>	<u>Rating</u>	<u>Buffer Vegetation Condition</u>	<u>Rating</u>
Less than 50 feet	9 5	Very Good	9 0
50 feet to 150 feet	9 3	Dense Grass, Hay Field	
Greater than 150 feet	9 0	Good	9 1
		Avg. Grass, Forest, Good Pasture	
<u>Buffer:</u>	<u>Rating</u>	Fair	9 3
0 - 50 feet	9 5	Poor Grass, Fair Pasture	
50 - 100 feet	9 3	Poor	9 5
150 - 300 feet	9 1	Bare Soil, Pavement, Poor Grass	
Greater than 300 feet	9 0		
<u>Distance from Disturbance to Downstream Adjacent Property</u>	<u>Rating</u>	<u>Critical Slope</u>	<u>Rating</u>
Less than 50 feet	9 5	Is the slope -	
50 feet to 150 feet	9 3	0-7%, Greater than or	
Greater than 150 feet	9 0	Equal to 300' slope length or	If, YES 9 3
		7-15%, Greater than	
		or Equal to 150' slope length or	If, NO 9 0
		Greater than 15%	
		and Greater than or	
		= to 75' slope length ?	
<u>Crossing Water Course</u>	<u>Rating</u>	<u>Approximate Disturbed Acreage</u>	<u>Rating</u>
YES	9 No rating	< 1/2 acre	9 0
- MUST inspect at a minimum 2-week frequency		1/2 to 1 acre	9 3
NO	9 0	1 to 2 acres	9 5
		> 2 acres	9 No rating
<u>Soil Erodibility (based on K factor)</u>	<u>Rating</u>	- MUST inspect at a minimum 2-week frequency	
Low (0.23 and lower)	9 1		
Moderate (0.24 - 0.36)	9 3		
High (0.37 and higher)	9 5		

OVERALL RATING (Total of the above 8 categories)

If _____ is 26-33 then
 If _____ is 20-26 then
 If _____ is 13-19 then
 If _____ is 12 or less then

INSPECTION RETURN FREQUENCY

9 Once every 2-Weeks*
 9 Once every 4-Weeks*
 9 Once every 8-Weeks*
 9 None - refer to Building Inspectors
 for Building Inspection & Monitoring

* - In addition, inspection will be provided at the beginning and completion of projects.

Note: The INSPECTION RETURN FREQUENCY is not limited to the above schedule and may increase in frequency due to documented violations or runoff producing storm events.